2014 THIRD YEAR THEME PAPER

GUIDELINES
Students will complete a Theme Paper requirement in their third year of study. The Theme Paper can take several forms. It can be a publishable conceptual paper that would review the literature in the student’s chosen sub-field, and, in doing so, put forth and defend a thesis. It can be a publishable policy paper, which would be similar to a conceptual paper but would focus more on policy. It can be an in-depth course outline that would describe in detail a new course that a student wishes to teach, explain its conceptual underpinnings, and discuss analytically and synthetically its readings and assignments.

This requirement will be fulfilled by approval of the Theme Paper by a committee of two Senate Faculty members in the School of Education, with final review by the Ph.D. Steering Committee. One of the committee members will normally be the student’s advisor; the second member will be appointed by the Ph.D. in Education program director, typically in consultation with the student’s advisor.

Within 10 days of receipt of the paper, the committee will provide one of three marks: Pass or No Pass on the first round, and Pass or Fail on subsequent rounds, and will also provide written commentary for the student. The Ph.D. Steering Committee will review the scoring and the Dean will provide written notification of the Committee’s decision to each student.

Papers given a Pass successfully complete the requirement. Students who receive a No Pass on the first round will have 30 days to revise and resubmit their paper for a second scoring by the committee. Students who receive a Fail on the second round will be placed on Academic Probation with consequences, and be given 30 days for one final attempt to pass. Students who receive a second Fail will be recommended to the Graduate Dean for Disqualification.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
Students may submit their Third Year Theme Paper anytime from passing the Second Year Research Paper to September 15 of their Year 4. Students email one .docx copy with student name included, one .docx copy with all name identifiers removed, and one .pdf copy with name included to lfellus@uci.edu.

SUBMISSION WINDOW FOR 2014
Papers may be submitted at any point during a rolling deadline following passage
EXAMPLES OF THEME ESSAYS:

- Course Outline Example 1: Early Childhood Development and Public Policy: Child Care and Early Childhood Education Interventions in America
- Course Outline Example 2: Research Methods and Their Implications for Educational Policy
- Research Synthesis 1: Marital Conflict and Child Adjustment: What About Gender (Jessica R. Snyder)
- Research Synthesis 2: Does Child Temperament Moderate the Influence of Parenting on Adjustment (Kathleen Cranley Gallagher)
- Policy Paper: Issue Brief - California’s Math Pipeline: Success Begins Early

Additional examples can be found in the following journals:
- Developmental Review
- Review of Educational Research
- Society for Research in Child Development Social Policy Reports